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A sketch of Mercer County,  
New Jersey, 1838-1928



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*A SKETCH OF*  
*MERCER COUNTY*  
*NEW JERSEY*

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*1838-1928*

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# A SKETCH OF MERCER COUNTY NEW JERSEY 1838-1928

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ISSUED BY THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS THROUGH THE KIND COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THOSE PERSONS AND FIRMS NAMED ON THE LAST PAGE

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MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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## FOREWORD

THIS brief sketch of Mercer County is believed by authorities to be the only survey of the County completed and issued in the past forty-five years—since 1883—and many thanks are due the underwriters named on the last page, whose support made it possible.

Through actual photographs and an abridged recital of the outstanding facts, it is hoped to present to the reader an accurate picture of the entire County—painted in bold strokes. It has intentionally been made brief to attract a wide circle of readers and planned to create within the County contentment and a pride of home.

This survey has revealed and brought to light the facts that MERCER COUNTY IS the Hub County of New Jersey—the educational centre of the State—rich industrially—a great transportation centre—has an extensive and varied agriculture—has kept its taxes among the lowest in the State—has a patriotic and progressive citizenry—is the place to live, work and play.

## MERCER COUNTY BOOK COMMITTEE

ARTHUR BRAY, *Chairman*

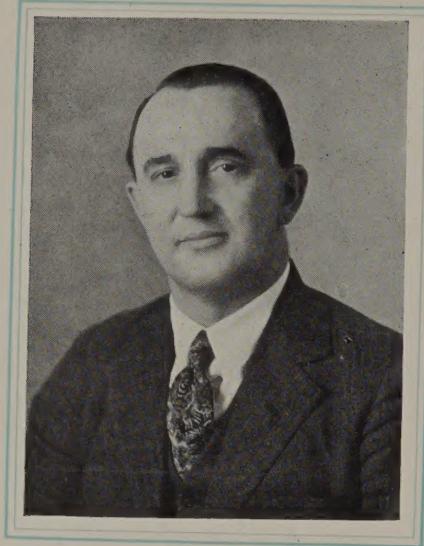
GEORGE H. BARLOW

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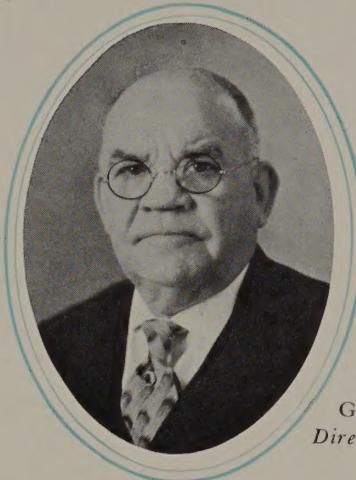
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ARTHUR BRAY,  
*Director of Road Repair.*



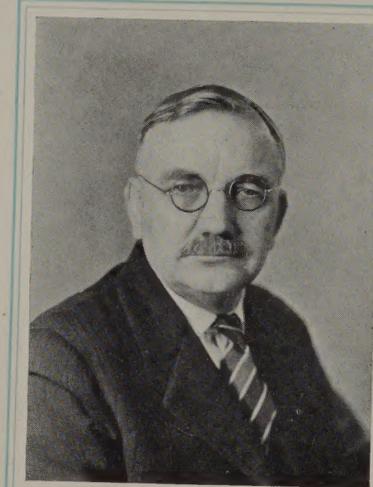
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*Director of Public Buildings.*

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, 1928



*Reproduction of famous painting of "WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE AT TRENTON—IN 1776."*

## History

BEFORE the coming of the white man and while countless centuries dawned and faded, Indians roamed the fertile forest lands of what is now Mercer County, New Jersey. In the early years of the seventeenth century, Indians of the Lenni Lenape Tribe dominated this territory. White settlers from the New York area ventured down over the Indian trails which converged at the head of tidewater at "Ye Falles of Ye De La Ware"—now Trenton—and began trading with members of the Lenni Lenape Tribe. But not till 1676, nearly two centuries after Columbus discovered America, did civilized man make his first settlement in Mercer County at the site of Trenton.

In October, 1677, and in December, 1678, vessels from England landed their Quaker groups at Burlington on the Delaware. With tobacco, rum, guns, knives and trinkets they purchased lands from the Indians and settled. Among their number were Mahlon Stacy, Thomas Lambert and Thomas Potts, who later played a large part in the settlement of Mercer County.



McKONKEY HOUSE AT WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK, WHICH WASHINGTON USED AS HEADQUARTERS AFTER CROSSING THE DELAWARE.

On the sacred soil of Mercer County, the famous Revolutionary Battles of Trenton and Princeton were fought. The Battle of Trenton has often been referred to as the "turning point of the Revolution." The war had been going on for twenty months. The British had driven the Colonial Army out of New England, New York and New Jersey. Congress had fled from Philadelphia to Baltimore. The Revolt of the Colonies was believed quashed—when came the famous Battle of Trenton. Every school child knows how Washington, at about dawn, after Christmas night in 1776, led his hungry and ill clad army of 2400 heroes across the ice-clogged Delaware to surprise, battle and capture most of the King's 1400 hired Hessian soldiers at Trenton. How—the victory revived the depressed spirits of the colonists and how—everywhere patriots sprang to arms.

About a week later the Battle of Princeton followed. Washington, greatly outnumbered by the enemy, under Cornwallis, deceived the British troops by leaving his camp fires burning at Trenton and, in his world famous strategic move, night marched to Princeton. The next day, three battles were fought, the British were routed and prisoners and stores captured. But during the battle the brave General Hugh Mercer was mortally wounded—and in his honor the County was later named.

Following are other notable Mercer County historical events which occurred before the County was formed: The Continental Congress met in Princeton in 1783 and in Trenton in 1784. Trenton became the Capital of New Jersey in 1790, though it did not receive its charter till 1792. Four years later the first State House was built. In 1806 the first bridge over the Delaware at Trenton was completed.

In 1680, Stacy built a grist mill on the Creek in Trenton. In 1690 he sold it to Judge William Trent, of Philadelphia, who acquired Stacy's lands in 1714 and moved to the region soon named for him as Trenton. He was the first Chief Justice of New Jersey, and was at one time Speaker of the Assembly in this State and in Pennsylvania. He died on Christmas night, 1724, and his home still stands on South Warren Street, in Trenton.

In 1746, Trenton Borough, including most of present Mercer County, obtained a Royal Charter from the King. But the advantages expected of it did not materialize and in 1750 the charter was surrendered.

Then came discord and malcontent between the Colonies and the Crown. In 1775, the first Provincial Congress, seeking liberty, met here. A year later, after the Revolution had started, the first Legislature of the State of New Jersey met in Princeton. Several prominent citizens of Mercer County signed the immortal Declaration of Independence.

Not till 1838 was Mercer County formed, from parts of Burlington, Middlesex, Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. Another portion of Hunterdon was annexed in 1839. Trenton, previously the seat of Hunterdon County, became the county seat of Mercer.

It may be of interest to briefly record here the settlement and formation of each major civil division of the County. Lawrence, Hopewell and Ewing Townships and Trenton were previously the southern part of Hunterdon County. Hamilton Township was part of Burlington County; Princeton was part of Somerset County; and East and West Windsor of Middlesex.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP had many settlers prior to 1698. Originally organized in 1798 as Maidenhead, in 1816 its name was changed to Lawrence in memory of Captain James Lawrence, naval hero of the War of 1812, who uttered the famed phrase, "Don't give up the ship." Part of the township, now known as East Trenton, was deducted and annexed to the City in 1882.

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, so named in 1700, originally comprised part of Trenton, Hopewell and Pennington Boroughs and Ewing and Lawrence Townships. Daniel Coxe bought the land from eleven Indian chiefs in 1688. Pennington was first known as Queenstown and later, in derision, as Pennytown. In about 1797 Johannes Lawrenson bought the site from the New Jersey Society.

EWING TOWNSHIP, organized in 1834, was named after Charles Ewing, Chief Justice of New Jersey. Thomas Hutchinson was one of the early settlers there in 1687.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP was settled in 1708 and named Nottingham, after that town in England, by Isaac Watson. In 1842 it was chartered and renamed Hamilton. The boroughs of Wilbur and Chambersburg were later deducted and annexed to Trenton.

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP was called Stony Brook till 1724. William Penn held title to most of the land, which was occupied as early as 1681. Princeton University was begun in 1757 and the Borough chartered in 1813. Princeton Township was formed in 1838, taking its name from the Borough.

EAST and WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIPS were formed in 1797 by dividing the original Windsor Township. John Ely and William Hutchinson—buying land near Hightstown in 1728—were among the earliest settlers. Nine years later Penn's Neck and Dutch Neck were settled.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP was formed from East Windsor in 1859. John Chamberlain and Timothy Hulet settling along Old York Road about 1750 were among the early residents of the Township.

HIGHTSTOWN BOROUGH was formed in 1853 and named after John Hight, a blacksmith and tavern keeper, who founded the place long before the Revolution.

The people of Mercer County have played a leading and proud part in the unprecedented progress of our nation from the days that liberty was won by Washington's brave army. During the War of 1812, the trying Civil War and subsequent conflicts the County gave unstintingly of its sons, its wealth and its devotion.

In developing its industry and agricultural resources, Mercer County not only enriched its people but added to the wealth of the entire nation. It also has shown the way in education and spiritual development.

Two of our country's Presidents, Grover Cleveland and Woodrow Wilson, were residents of the County. Mercer is a true American County,—a home of liberty loving, patriotic and progressive citizens.



BATTLE MONUMENT, LOCATED IN  
CENTRE OF TRENTON.



RELIEF MAP OF NEW JERSEY, SHOWING MERCER COUNTY OUTLINED.

## Geography

**LOCATION:** SITUATED IN THE VERY CENTRE OF NEW JERSEY, MERCER IS THE HUB COUNTY OF THE STATE. It lies exactly midway on a North and South line drawn from Carpenter's Point, the most northern tip of the State, to Cape May, the southern extremity. It is also half way between the most eastern and western limits of New Jersey.

**SIZE:** Of the County's 227.9 square miles or 145,868 acres, 144,605 acres are land surface and 1253 acres are water surface. It is one of the smallest of the State's twenty-one counties, ranking sixteenth.

**BOUNDARY:** For more than twenty miles the waters of the navigable Delaware wash the western border of the County, while in other directions it is bounded by Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth and Burlington Counties.

**TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL:** In Mercer County are found the two distinct topography and soil types characteristic of North and South New Jersey. The northern half of the County, like all of Northern New Jersey, is a red sandstone and shale formation of high hills and rapid streams. While like South Jersey, in the Southern half of the County the hills of the north are flattened out, the ground is only slightly undulating and the streams sluggish. The soil is a light and loamy alluvial type.

**STREAMS:** No rivers traverse the County though the Delaware River, Crosswick's Creek and the Millstone River form a considerable portion of the county boundary line. The most valuable interior streams are Stony Brook, Assunpink Creek and their tributaries. The Delaware and Raritan Canal and its feeder do traverse the County.

**CLIMATE:** Although typical of the temperate zone, the climate of Mercer County is moderated by the nearness but not too close proximity of the County to oceanic influences. The temperature varies from  $0^{\circ}$  to  $100^{\circ}$ , January being the coldest month and July the warmest. The annual rainfall of 40 to 45 inches is rather evenly distributed over all the months. The prevailing winds are westerly and southwesterly during most of the year.

## Population

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND IS THE PRESENT ESTIMATED POPULATION OF MERCER COUNTY, MAKING IT ONE OF THE LEADING COUNTIES OF THE STATE IN THIS RESPECT. According to the U. S. census, there were but 21,498 people in Mercer County in 1840, only two years after it was formed. From then on it grew at a steady pace of about 1230 each year until 1900 when its population was 95,365. From 1900 to 1910 its growth was much more rapid. The average yearly increase was 3,029 and the 1910 population 125,657. From 1910 to 1920 its growth was still more rapid. The average annual increase for this period jumped to 3422, making the 1920 population of Mercer County 159,881. The U. S. census classified this 1920 population into 106,877 native born whites, 35,916 foreign born whites and 6,991 colored.

It is worthy of mention that in 1920, there was centered in the City of Trenton 76 per cent. of the County's total population. Today, Trenton's estimated population is 135,000. In 1925 the distinctly farm population of the County is given as 6037.

The Minor Civil Divisions of Mercer County and their respective populations as of 1920 are:

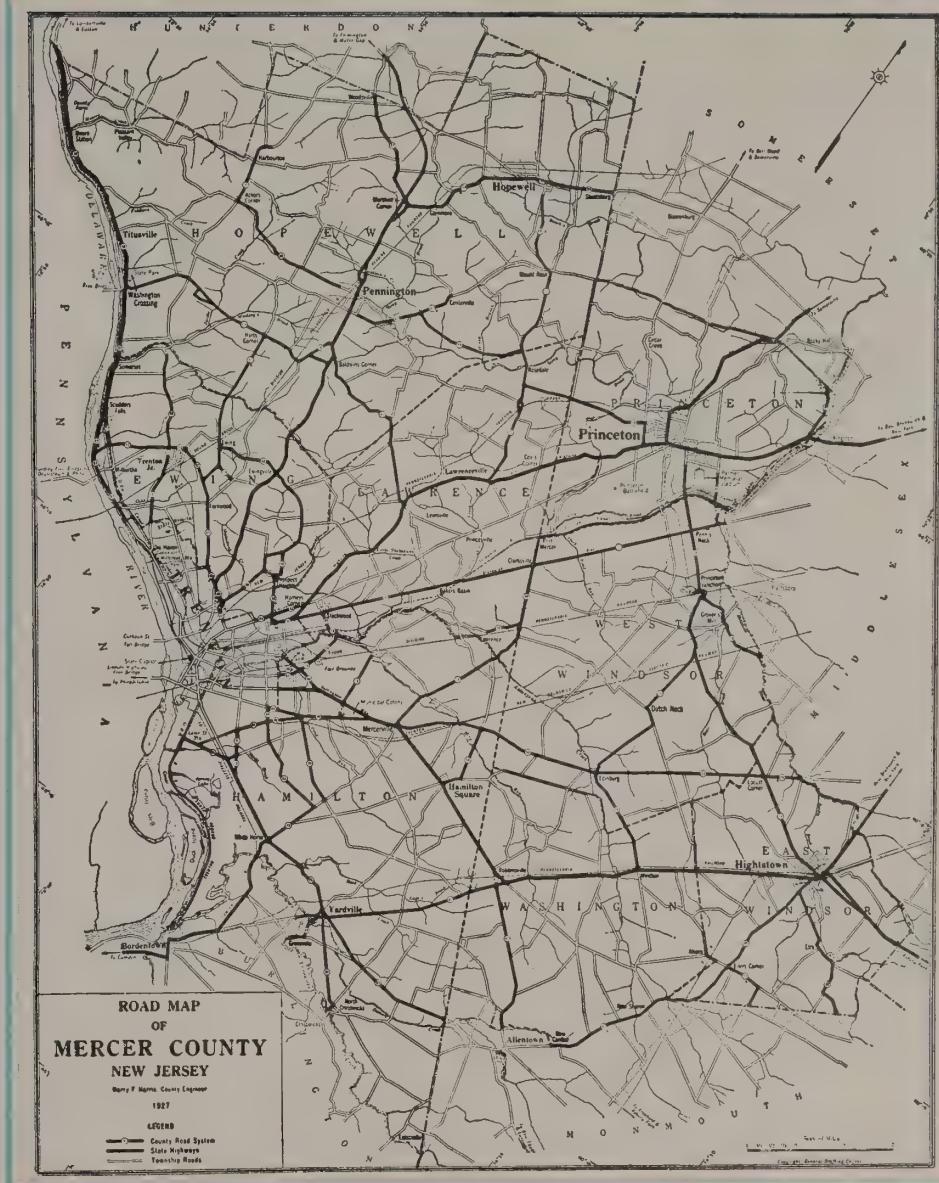
City of Trenton..... 119,289

### TOWNSHIPS:

Hamilton .....	14,580	Princeton .....	1,424
Lawrence .....	3,686	West Windsor ...	1,389
Ewing .....	3,475	Washington .....	1,161
Hopewell .....	3,249	East Windsor ....	733

### BOROUGHS:

Princeton .....	5,917	Hopewell .....	1,339
Hightstown .....	2,674	Pennington .....	965



ROAD MAP OF MERCER COUNTY.



AERIAL VIEW OF DAIRY SECTION

## Agriculture

THE PROMINENCE OF MERCER COUNTY IN AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN SHADOWED BY THE WIDE-SPREAD RECOGNITION GIVEN TO ITS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RANKS THE COUNTY FAVORABLY WITH THE BEST IN NEW JERSEY IN AGRICULTURE. Due to its variety of soil and topography types, its copious and evenly distributed rainfall, its long average growing season of 195 days and the industry and intelligence of its farmers, the County is one of the leaders of New Jersey in the great variety and extensiveness of its agricultural production. The exceedingly fertile soils of Southern Mercer County are among the most productive in the United States.

In 1924 the total value of all crops, dairy and poultry products was \$3,362,969.00.

Potatoes, corn, wheat, hay, apples, peaches, dairy and poultry products and truck are the principal agricultural crops.

In 1924 it ranked third among the Counties of the State in the production of white potatoes, sixth in total value of dairy products and eighth both in the total value of crops and total value of its live stock. It also stands third among the Counties in rye acreage, third in timothy acreage and fifth in winter wheat.

Ninety-two thousand nine hundred and thirty-six acres, or 64.3 per cent., of the total land area of the County is in farms. There are 1129 farms, averaging 82.3 acres each, and about 900 of them are operated intensively.

The census of 1925 places the total value of all farm land and buildings at \$12,500,000.00, and the value of the average farm of 82.3 acres is placed at \$13,231.00, land, buildings, stock and equipment included.

Marketing facilities and conditions for the farmers are excellent. The State and County Agricultural Services are constantly at work to help the farmer. At Trenton, the County Seat, are three retail and one wholesale farmers' out-door markets, free to the farmer and the public. Here consumers buy direct from the producers and as many as 275 farmers have been accommodated in a day.

A coöperative association of County farmers for buying supplies and selling products did a business of nearly a half million dollars in 1925.



## Transportation

CENTRALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON THE NAVIGABLE DELAWARE AND BETWEEN NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA, BOSTON AND BALTIMORE, MERCER COUNTY AND MORE ESPECIALLY THE CITY OF TRENTON IS A CENTRE OF TRANSPORTATION. Trenton is strategically located, being but 58 miles from New York and 33 miles from Philadelphia.

Keeping pace with the modern day standards of living and industry which require rapid movement of persons and commodities, Mercer County has every modern transportation facility by land, water and air.

**BY LAND:** The main lines of the Pennsylvania and Reading steam railroads and their many branch roads pass into and through many sections of the County. Of main stem railroad there are 73 miles in the County

and 42 miles of siding. More than 72 miles of electric trolley lines extend through the County and continue to many points in the State and Pennsylvania. Twenty established bus lines offer scheduled transportation service between the various centres of the County and from Trenton to the principal cities and coast resorts of New Jersey, and to New York, Philadelphia and other points. Many motor freight lines operate from Trenton on daily schedule. A system of 839 miles of highways and streets is spread over the entire County and makes accessible the most remote rural sections. Of this system, the main arteries consist of 390 miles of hard surfaced highway, to which a network of 449 miles of small feeder roads is tied.

**BY WATER:** The County's water transportation facilities are unusual. An established steamship line operating on the Delaware from Trenton, connects with coastwise and foreign steamship service. The Delaware and Raritan Canal, an inland waterway, extending for 17.2 miles across the County and joining its feeder at Trenton offers cheap water transportation for freight.

**BY AIR:** The Mercer County Airport recently established just north of Trenton provides facilities for transportation by air and adds the final touch of modernness to the already more than ample transportation facilities of the County.

For the accommodation of the thousands and thousands of people who visit Mercer County each year there are more than an adequate number and variety of hotels. They range from the most luxurious and modern to those which meet the needs of the modest purse.



THE RIVER ROAD, THE CANAL AND THE DELAWARE AT WASHINGTON CROSSING—FROM THE AIR.



DEDICATION OF MERCER COUNTY'S NEW AIRPORT—JUST NORTH OF TRENTON.



BUSY TRENTON VIEWED FROM THE AIR.

## Industry

MERCER COUNTY AND MORE PARTICULARLY THE CITY OF TRENTON IS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS AN INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY. "TRENTON MAKES — THE WORLD TAKES."

The principal industrial products of the County are pottery and fine chinaware, wire and wire rope, hard and soft rubber goods, machinery, structural steel, linoleum, radiators and school furniture. Out cropings of trap and other rock formations make quarrying a profitable industry.

Numbered among its 500 industrial establishments are some national and world leaders. One establishment is the largest single unit wire and wire rope manufacturing plant in the world. One represents the biggest wire manufacturing organization in the world. Another makes the finest china in the United States, equaling the best in the world. Still another

is the largest exclusive manufacturer of vitreous china sanitary ware in the world. In addition, one of the largest makers of rubber goods in the United States, the first manufacturer of school furniture in America and the biggest producers of radiators in the world are also represented in this formidable array of huge industrial establishments.

The 1920 U. S. census gives the total annual value of the products manufactured in Mercer County as \$158,361,221.00. If from this total is deducted the cost of materials used, the big sum of \$78,697,687 is shown as added to the wealth of the County by manufacture.

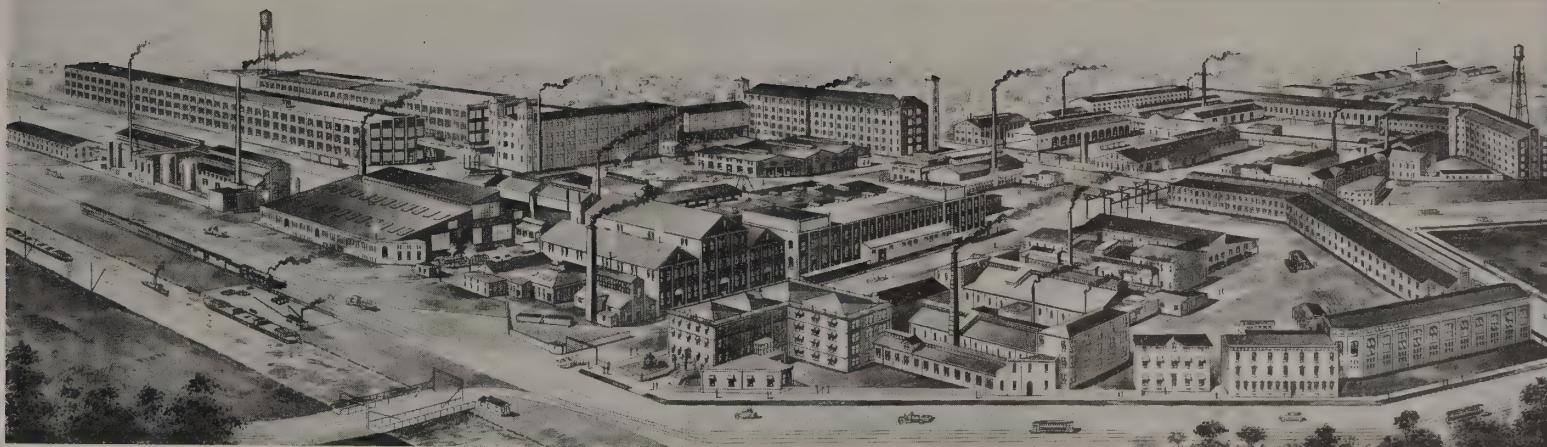
The 500 industrial establishments employ 30,515 workers, who receive annually \$34,873,500 in wages. One industrial plant employs over 5000 workers, three employ more than 1000 workers each, eighteen employ from 400 to 1000 and in each of forty-five plants from 100 to 400 workers.

Three hundred and forty and the largest of these industrial establishments are located in the City of Trenton.

Being the capital of the State and the County Seat, Trenton holds an unique position among the State capital cities in America. They are usually noted only as "Cities Beautiful" whereas Trenton, in addition, has the secure and substantial background of a live, flourishing industrial community, ever progressive and growing. Strategically situated, the City owes its industrial growth and prominence to its natural advantage of location, to its transportation facilities and to its excellent material and labor markets. It is but 90 minutes from New York, 45 minutes from Philadelphia, at the head of navigation on the Delaware River, on the main lines of two railroads, on the Lincoln Highway and at the terminus of an inland waterway. It is in fact in the very heart of America's greatest population and industrial district.

Such great industrial resources and production give to Mercer County a fine balance to its abundant and diversified agricultural activities —and make for a community in which every type of craftsman and worker can find employment, and where progress cannot be halted by depression in one or a few of its dependent fields of effort. It is an approach to the "Golden and Happy Mean."

Following is a brief description of some of Mercer County's industrial giants.



UPPER TRENTON WORKS.

## The John A. Roebling's Sons Company

The Largest Single Unit Wire and Wire Rope Manufacturing Plant in the World

IN 1849, in a little one-story structure at Trenton, John A. Roebling founded this mammoth industrial establishment. Builder of the first parallel wire cable suspension bridge in the world, maker of the first wire rope in America and genius in engineering the story of his life and benefactions to humanity is an inspiration to the youth of our nation. He is best known to the world as builder of the Brooklyn Bridge.

After his death in 1869, the management of the expanding business was taken up by the founder's sons, who in 1876 formed the John A. Roebling's Sons Company. They, in developing the industry to its immense size of today, have written their record of achievement in no less noble fashion than did the founder.

The Company manufactures hundreds and hundreds of wire products which may be grouped into three general classes: 1—Wire and Wire Rope; 2—Flat Wire; 3—Insulated Wire. Of wire rope alone the Company manufactures more than 400 kinds, sizes and qualities. Their early established and constantly adhered to policies of "Quality before Price" and "Manufacturing Honesty" have made the name "Roebling" a synonym for "wire" and "wire rope." Their myriad wire products are shipped from Trenton to every inhabited part of the world.

The two plants of the Company in Trenton, consisting of 109 separate buildings are over a mile long and cover acres and acres of ground. Another plant is ten miles farther down the Delaware, in the Company owned and model City of Roebling, N. J.

The present management through constant fair dealing and humane treatment of their employees enjoy the same high respect and affection of the workers which was the reward of their predecessors. Wages amounting to \$3,713,501.00 were paid in 1927 to the 2852 employees at the Trenton plants alone. A most comprehensive medical staff and department are maintained to afford the best free treatment and care, even in cases of the slightest injury. Education along safety lines and courses in foremanship, and shop and industrial engineering are provided and a plant magazine, published monthly, creates harmony and the spirit of kinship within the organization. Continuing an early custom of the founder, 250 employees assemble at noon each day in the dining room of the main office building to partake of a meal, served gratis. An employee's Credit Union encourages saving and makes loans in worthy cases.

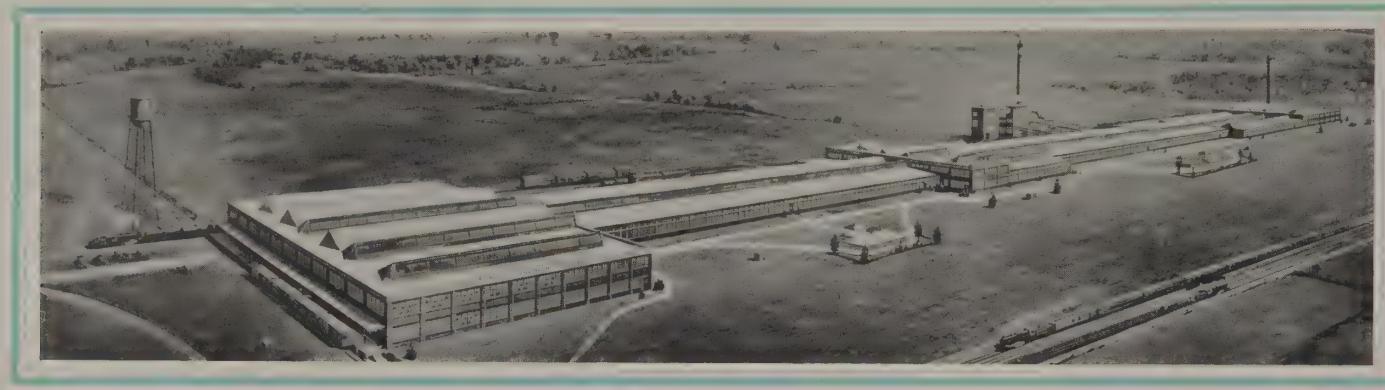
Free life insurance and a pension plan on retirement reward faithful service.

During the past five years, 342 employees were each signally honored for 35 years or more of faithful service.

The Model City of Roebling—planned, built and paid for by the Company—stands as an everlasting monument to the great benevolence and most kindly interest of the management in the welfare of its huge family of employees.

The present management of the Company is: F. W. Roebling, Jr., President; W. A. Anderson, Vice-President, Treasurer and General Manager; A. C. Cooley, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

Mercer County is fully conscious of the generous manner in which the John A. Roebling's Sons Company always has and still continues to add to the growth and prosperity of the people of the County.



## Thomas Maddock's Sons Company

The Largest Exclusive Manufacturers of Vitreous China Sanitary Ware in the World

THOMAS MADDOCK, founder of the Company and descendant of a long line of potters, was the first successful manufacturer of sanitary ware in America. A pioneer in the field, his mastery of countless difficulties and triumph over untold obstacles is an epic in the history of American industry. Founded as a private enterprise in 1859, the industry has grown until it now leads the world in the field. In 1882, with his sons, the firm of Thomas Maddock and Sons was formed, which in 1902 was incorporated as the Thomas Maddock's Sons Company.

They manufacture the finest grade of sanitary bath-room fixtures, such as lavatories, toilets, drinking fountains and bath-room accessories, in their immense modern plant just east of Trenton. The new plant completed in 1925 is one-third of a mile long and covers an area of one-third of a million square feet. In addition, the Company has a large factory in the City of Trenton.

Their products are of highest quality and uniform in character and are shipped from the Maddock plants in Mercer County to every continent on the face of the earth.

Today, the grandsons of the founder manage the Company and are the guiding spirit and inspiration of the extensive industry. Their interest in the welfare of their 600 employees is most praiseworthy. In 1927 these workers were paid in excess of \$1,000,000 in wages.

For the benefit of employees, a bonus system is maintained to encourage initiative. Free entertainment is furnished during holiday seasons. In the new plant, great expense was incurred to provide plenty of daylight and sunshine, a thoroughly clean and fireproof workshop, a commodious cafeteria, modern sanitary washrooms and individual lockers for the employees. These humane efforts are a glowing tribute to the fine spirit of the management.

The officers of the Company are: A. M. Maddock, President; H. S. Maddock, Vice-President; C. S. Maddock, Sr., Treasurer; W. W. Anderson, Assistant Treasurer; E. D. Anderson, Secretary; C. S. Maddock, Jr., Superintendent.

The generous attitude of the management in coöoperating with Mercer County and City Officials in all matters pertaining to the welfare of all the citizens is most commendable.



TRENTON WORKS.

## American Steel and Wire Company

One of the World's Largest Makers of Steel and Wire Products

FROM 1847 and for nearly three score years, the history of the Trenton Works of The American Steel and Wire Company is that of the Trenton Iron Co. The famous Peter Cooper was the first President of the Company and was also associated with Abram S. Hewitt in the Cooper, Hewitt & Co., of which King's Handbook of New York, published 1886, says:

*"In every way—financially, commercially, socially and historically, there is no more distinguished business house in America than Cooper Hewitt & Co."*

Under their able guidance notable and progressive strides were made. During the Civil War, Charles Hewitt of the Trenton Iron Co. produced gun barrels of superior quality for which he was presented with a beautiful, specially built residence when the war ended. In 1868, with a Siemens regenerative furnace, they produced in Trenton, the first open hearth steel made in America. To this day, the largest proportion of all steel is produced in improved furnaces of this same type. Twenty years later The Trenton Iron Co. introduced to this Country, Patented Locked Wire Rope for use on aerial tramways and subsequently, made aerial tramway installations in many States of the Union, Alaska and many foreign countries.

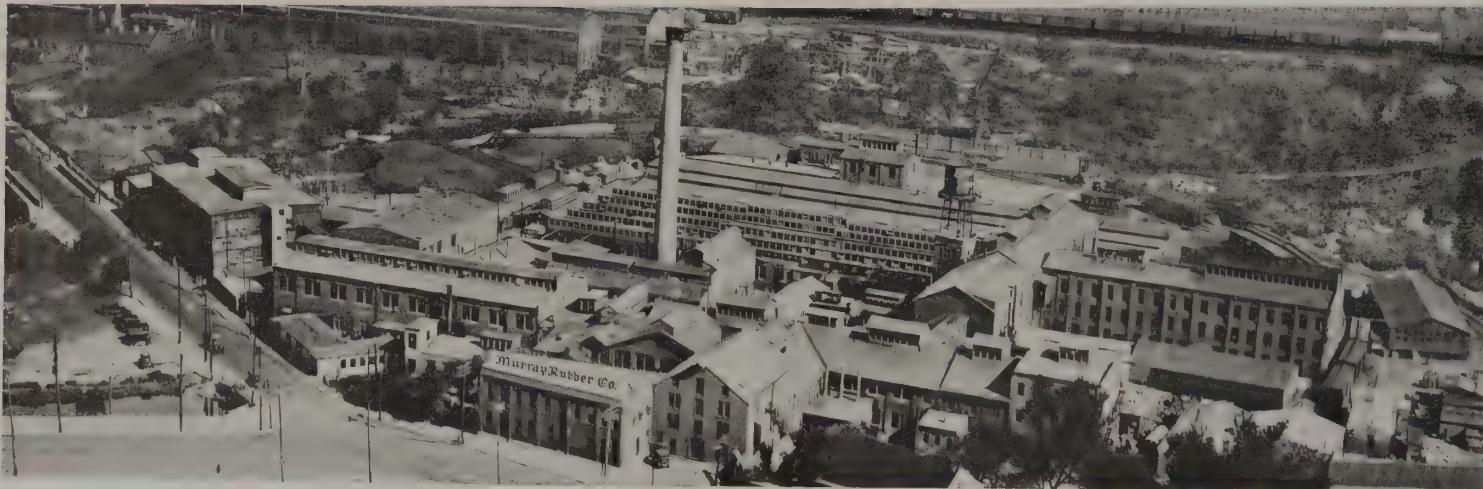
In 1905, The Trenton Iron Co. was acquired by the American Steel and Wire Company and became known as the Trenton Works of the latter company.

The spirit of sturdy honesty and progressive ambition fostered by Peter Cooper and the Hewitts have been continued and ever maintained by the executives of the American Steel and Wire Company. In honorable fashion, they seek to emulate the successes of their eminent predecessors in Trenton.

In The Trenton Works plant is manufactured wire rope for nearly every conceivable purpose and for shipment to every part of the world.

The health and safety of the 550 people, who are normally employed is of ever present concern and interest to the executive body. Education in safety, safeguarding devices on machinery and the services of a visiting nurse have reduced the number of accidents and time lost through sickness among the employees to an almost negligible quantity. Good wages, promotion of thrift and saving habits, sponsoring athletics, outings and fellowship clubs are added activities of the management, which promote and preserve the health, safety and contentment of the employees.

The management cannot be too highly commended for these activities and for its constant interest and support of all forward looking community projects.



## The Murray Rubber Company

Largest Manufacturers of Rubber Products in Mercer County

BEGINNING the manufacture of rubber about 1860, the Company operated under various names until 1922 when the present owners of the Murray Rubber Company took it over. Today the products of the Company are known the world over. The real growth and expansion of the business, to its present great size, has occurred since 1922 while under the aggressive guiding influence and direction of the present owners.

The major products of the Company are tires, tubes, fire, garden and suction hose, bands, floor tiling, mats and matting, which are shipped from the plant in Trenton to practically every country on the earth.

These world known products are manufactured in the 46 buildings of the Company's plant, which has a quarter million square feet of floor space and occupies 20 acres of land.

Holding a prominent place among the major industrial establishments of Mercer County, the Company gives great consideration to promoting the interests and welfare of its employees. During 1927 there was paid approximately \$1,500,000 in wages to the average of 1000 workers who were employed. Much thought and expense have been devoted toward safeguarding the employees against accident, toward providing the most modern, sanitary and healthy working conditions and toward encouraging the individual advancement of each. A graduate nurse is maintained for first aid and welfare work not only in the plant but also in the homes of the workers.

Life insurance is offered gratis after a definite period of work and a pension system rewards long and faithful service.

Such humane activities by the management have engendered a most cordial relationship between the employees and owners.

The present officials of the Company are: C. Edw. Murray, Jr., President; Thomas Morrison, Jr., Vice-President; W. R. Dolton, Secretary; H. E. Berrien, Treasurer; N. S. Conover, Assistant Secretary.

The Murray Rubber Company is ever among the foremost in furthering all worthy community undertakings.

## Lenox, Incorporated

THE history of Lenox China is the history of Walter Scott Lenox and the history of Walter Scott Lenox is a modern epic of idealism."

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1859 and fascinated by the potter's art early in youth, Walter Scott Lenox established the industry in 1889. He had but one standard: *Quality*. He knew that in the end it would be successful—but what a price he paid! Feverishly toiling to create new standards of Art for American Ceramics, tremendously in debt, burning with ambitions as strong as that which urged Bernard Palissy to cast his house-hold furniture into his kiln, Lenox was about to welcome unqualified success, when he was stricken with a calamity which would have crushed an ordinary mortal. In 1895—at the very moment when success was beginning to crown his efforts—he was overwhelmed with paralysis and blindness. With God-given courage and the fortitude of inherent heroism, he elected to go on—and on—and on. He continued to visit the factory and continued on to a victory, he could not rise to greet—a triumph, he could not see. His boyhood dream was realized. Lenox ware competed with the products of the world's best potters. And then one day he came no more. Walter Scott Lenox died January 11th, 1920—but his idealism, his personality, his spirit live on.

In the homes of culture and refinement throughout the land, Lenox dinnerware service,—beautiful yet serviceable, exquisitely dainty yet durable—is to be found. Lenox China has a character, a tone, a charm of its own. The first American made dinner service to grace the White House in Washington was Lenox ware.

Special services have been made for the Presidential Palace in Cuba, the President of Venezuela, the American Embassy in London.

In April 1928, Lenox China brought unusual honor and distinction to Mercer County and to Lenox, Inc. Then, for the first time in history, the products of an American ceramic factory were placed in the exhibit at the famous Ceramic Museum of Sevres, France. Only after an exhaustive investigation did the officers of the Museum invite the shipment abroad of the Trenton-made product.

The present management, each and all, are proteges of Walter Scott Lenox. Everywhere, throughout the new, modern pottery, built on the site where Lenox China was born, the spirit of craftsmanship prevails. Here, a fine harmony and splendid morale exist among the great family of 400 artisans. Here, the soul of Walter Scott Lenox yet lives. Here is an American shrine to art, to beauty, to faith and to idealism.

The present management is: H. A. Brown, President; R. V. Kuser, Vice-President; John L. Kuser, Treasurer; J. Louis Kuser, Jr., Assistant Treasurer; Frank G. Holmes, Secretary, and William H. Clayton, Assistant Secretary.

A fine helpful spirit is manifested by Lenox, Inc., in its many relations with its employees and with the entire people of Trenton and Mercer County.



THE TRENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## Education

### MERCER COUNTY STANDS FORTH AS THE EDUCATIONAL CENTRE OF NEW JERSEY.

Exempting \$12,225,540.00 of private school property from taxes, which is more by a million than any other two counties of the State combined—ranging its 116 schools from the lowly single room schoolhouse to the world-known and venerable Princeton University—and counting among its libraries several of the most famous in the United States—Mercer County is in truth the State's seat of learning.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OF THE COUNTY supported by State funds and local taxation, has 72 elementary schools and 8 high schools. To assure proper education, training and environment in these schools, the teachers must meet a very high standard of requirements before they are granted a teacher's certificate. As rapidly as finances permit modern school buildings are replacing the old and a system of free transportation for students makes available a more complete and higher education to those living in the distant farming sections of the County.

During the school year 1926-1927 an average of 28,690 pupils were daily enrolled and a staff of 1038 teachers were engaged. Fourteen hundred and fifty-one children were carried free to and from school each day in commodious buses, which operated over 58 separate routes daily, at an average cost of \$53.80 per child for the year. In addition, 600 students were given free transportation by train, trolley and public bus. To this modern system of free school transportation is attributed principally the rapid passing of the single room school house, of which but five remain.

**STATE SCHOOLS.** There are three in the County: The State Normal School, The School of Industrial Arts and the School for the Deaf.

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS.** A system of 17 parochial schools had a total enrollment of 11,253 pupils in 1927. In addition, there are 16 private educational institutions within the bounds of the County. The most famous is Princeton University, located in the historic Borough of Princeton and chartered in 1746 as the College of New Jersey. Its great cluster of gothic structures dot the beautiful university campus of 539 acres. The other prominent private schools are Princeton Theological Seminary, the Lawrenceville, Princeton, Hun, Bowen and Pennington preparatory schools, Peddie Institute, the Miss Fine's, the Ireland, and Prospect Hill schools and Rider's and another business college.

**LIBRARIES:** With 16 major libraries, almost 100 branches, a moving library and a total of 1,145,000 books, library service is available to every resident of Mercer County. The first free library in New Jersey was established at Trenton in 1750 by a gift from Dr. Thomas Cadwalader. The State Library has original letters, manuscripts and complete newspaper files from early Colonial Days. The Princeton Library with its 600,000 volumes is known the world over.

**NEWSPAPERS:** There are three daily and thirteen weekly newspapers published in Mercer County. Of these, the leaders, in point of circulation, are the *State Gazette*, *The Trenton Evening Times* and *The Sunday Times-Advertiser*, all published in Trenton.

**LITERACY:** According to the 1920 U. S. census, illiteracy extended to but one-half of one per cent. of the native-born whites and to but six per cent. of the County's total population over 10 years of age.

## Religion

THE soil of Mercer County was early consecrated to religious freedom. The early settlers,—the Quakers, the Huguenots, the Calvanists, the Irish Presbyterians—all found freedom to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. With such religious freedom grew a deep respect for all religions, a great tolerance for the belief of others and a reverence for righteousness. And so to this modern day, have the people of Mercer County continued as a God fearing people, steadfast in their worship of the Almighty, sympathetically tolerant each for the faith of the other and strong through their freedom from religious bigotry.

There are more than 175 churches of 16 denominations in Mercer County. The earliest church in the County dates back to the days when the earliest settlers erected their first crude place of worship.

In keeping with the religious spirit of Mercer County's forefathers, Princeton University has recently dedicated a magnificent new chapel as a place of worship free from denominational and sectarian restraints. In this majestic chapel, the largest in America, it is hoped to give worship of God a compelling beauty that will attract the students.

## Wealth and Banks

### THE WEALTH OF MERCER COUNTY IS WRITTEN IN HUGE FIGURES.

\$232,277,332.00 is the assessed value of real property for 1927!

\$144,548,296.26 is the total resources of the banks as of December 31, 1927!

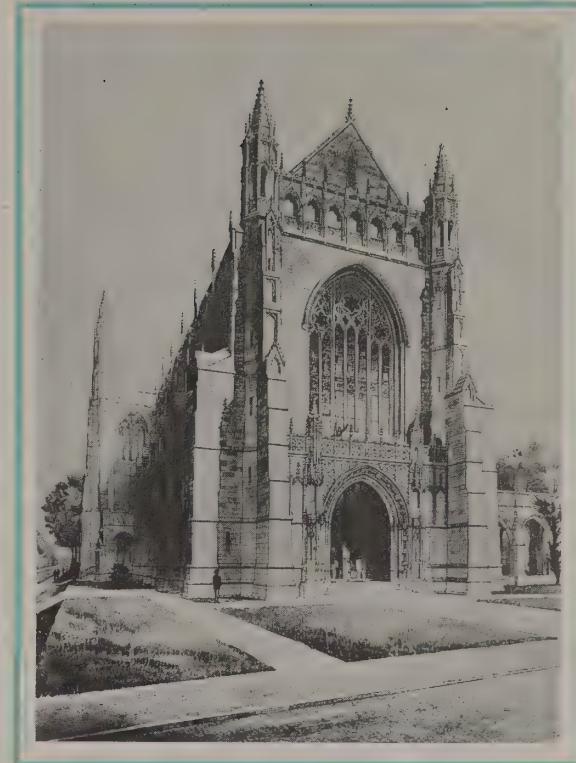
115,240 savings accounts in a community of 185,000 people!

These are sizeable figures.

An average of two savings accounts for every home in Mercer County—62 people in every 100! That is a proud record of thrift.

Each savings account averages \$469.67 and represents a total of \$54,124,142.05 of savings. This indicates the tremendous reserve purchasing power of the County.

There are 21 banks in the County, whose surplus and undivided profits totalled \$13,089,391.00 and capital \$6,425,000.00 at the end of 1927. They have had a large part in the progress of Mercer County, standing solidly back of its commercial life and ever ready to extend the fullest financial assistance commensurate with safety. Their sound policies assure a continuance of the highest character of banking service.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY'S NEW CHAPEL,  
THE LARGEST IN AMERICA.

## Government

MERCER COUNTY is governed by a Board of Chosen Freeholders, consisting of seven members chosen at large from the County. The Board controls and manages the affairs of the County from the County Seat at Trenton.

At each General Fall Election two members are elected to serve for a term of three years each, excepting every third year, when three members are elected. Thus the Board is never without the services of at least four experienced members.

On January 2nd of each year, following the Fall election, the Board meets and organizes. They elect one of their members Director of the Board and he appoints each member, himself included, as Director of one of the seven departments into which the activities of the Board are divided. As a further efficiency measure, to each such Director, is appointed as a deputy, the director of another department. At this first meeting a tentative budget for the year is adopted. Thereafter, the Board holds regular meetings every Tuesday at the Court House, in Trenton.

The members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Mercer County for the year 1928 are: Director Public Affairs, George H. Barlow, Trenton; Deputy, F. Alex. Crawford. Director Road Repair, Arthur Bray, Trenton; Deputy, Wm. M. Pettit. Director New Roads, Wm. M. Pettit, Trenton; Deputy, Arthur Bray. Director Bridges and Culverts, F. Alex. Crawford, Trenton; Deputy, George H. Barlow. Director Revenue and Finance, Wm. S. Borden, Trenton; Deputy, F. Alex. Crawford. Director Public Buildings, Geo. R. Hutchinson, Robbinsville; Deputy, John O. Gretton. Director Courts and Charities, John O. Gretton, Trenton; Deputy, Geo. R. Hutchinson.

County Officers appointed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders are: Director of the Board, William S. Borden, Trenton; Clerk-Auditor of the Board, Walter C. Fowler, Trenton; County Treasurer, Edgar G. Weart, Lawrence Township; County Engineer, Harry F. Harris, Titusville; County Road Supervisor, Chas. N. McGuire, Pennington; County Counsel, Frederic R. Brace, Trenton; County Solicitor, Godfrey W. Schroth, Trenton; County Physician, Dr. Chas. H. Mitchell, Trenton; County Adjuster, Fred C. Beans, Trenton.

SINKING FUND COMMISSION—Bentley H. Pope, President, Trenton; Howard F. Tomlinson, Secretary, Trenton; Louis C. Kearsey, Hillwood Lakes; William S. Borden, Trenton; Edgar G. Weart, Lawrence Township.



MERCER COUNTY COURT HOUSE—TRENTON.

*Wm. W. Slack & Sons, Architects.*



FREEHOLDERS AT COUNTY WORK HOUSE,  
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP.



TOP—WALTER C. FOWLER, *Clerk-Auditor*. Left—EDGAR G. WEART, *County Treasurer*. Right—HARRY F. HARRIS, *County Engineer*. Bottom—CHAS. N. MCGUIRE, *Road Supervisor*.

Spaulding, Trenton; Assistant Prosecutor of the Pleas, School Superintendent, Joseph M. Arnold, Princeton; Warden of County Jail, John D'Arcy, Trenton; Chief County Detective, Jas. S. Kirkham, Trenton; Chief Probation Officer, Wm. N. Morrison, Trenton; Secretary County Tax Board, Orlo S. Hatton, Trenton; Assistant Probation Officer, Hiram G. Madden, Trenton; Jury Commissioner, Edward J. Jennings; Farm Demonstrator, A. C. McLean.

Mercer County, together with Hunterdon and Somerset Counties form the 4th Congressional District of New Jersey and are represented in the United States House of Representatives by Congressman Charles Aubrey Eaton of Plainfield.

The County is represented in the New Jersey State Senate by Senator A. Crozer Reeves of Lawrenceville and in the State Assembly by three Assemblymen: Walter Hart Olden, Princeton Township; D. Lane Powers, Trenton; Daniel A. Spair, Trenton.

COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION—Joseph M. Arnold, President, Princeton; Mrs. Mabel Moore, Ewing Township; Senator A. Crozer Reeves, Trenton; Senator Wm. H. Blackwell, Titusville; Calvin Perrine, Hightstown.

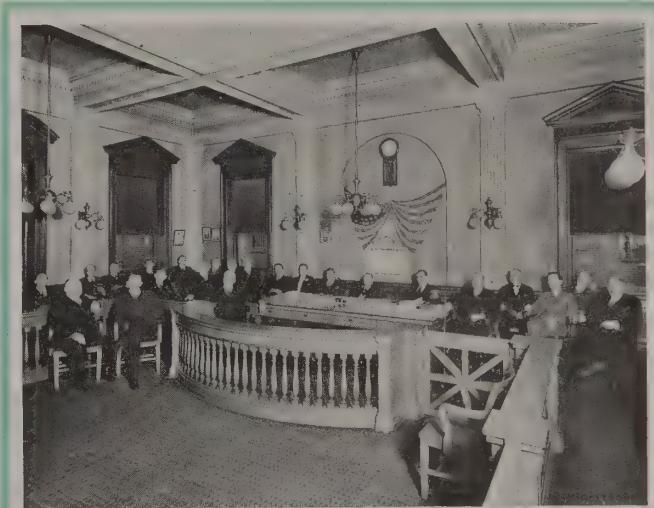
SHADE TREE COMMISSION—Wm. S. Borden, Chairman, Trenton; Harry F. Harris, Titusville; Ralph M. Bodenweiser, Trenton.

SELECTED BY BOARD UNDER CIVIL SERVICE ACT: Sealer of Weights and Measures, Ralph M. Bodenweiser; Hospital Investigator, George Hancock, Trenton; Cemetery Superintendent, Wm. H. Bilbee, Trenton; Warden of Work House, Walter Firth, Moore's Station.

The following County offices are filled by election: Sheriff, John N. Race, Hopewell; County Clerk, Chas. P. Hutchinson, Trenton; Surrogate, Samuel Haverstick, Trenton; County Coroners, Silas R. Bray, Trenton; Harold Appleget, Trenton; Henry B. Bronson, Princeton.

The following offices and their present incumbents as filled through appointment by the Governor of New Jersey with the approval of the State Senate are: Supreme Court Justice, Thomas W. Trenchard, Trenton; Circuit Court Judge, A. Dayton Oliphant, Trenton; Common Pleas (County) Judge, Erwin E. Marshall, Trenton; Prosecutor of the Pleas, Chas. H. English, Trenton; County Tax Board—Chas. H. Gallagher, Trenton; Lloyd W. Grover, Frenchtown; Fred Long, Trenton; County Board of Elections—Helen McCormack, Trenton; Gertrude C. Heil, Trenton; Dorothy Doranz, Trenton; Frederick P. Rees, Trenton.

Officers appointed by Officers other than the Board of Chosen Freeholders are: Under Sheriff, Philip S. Vine, Trenton; Deputy County Clerk, Claire D. Oliphant, Trenton; Deputy Surrogate, Marvin A. Spaulding, Trenton; Assistant Prosecutor of the Pleas, School Superintendent, Joseph M. Arnold, Princeton; Warden of County Jail, John D'Arcy, Trenton; Chief County Detective, Jas. S. Kirkham, Trenton; Chief Probation Officer, Wm. N. Morrison, Trenton; Secretary County Tax Board, Orlo S. Hatton, Trenton; Assistant Probation Officer, Hiram G. Madden, Trenton; Jury Commissioner, Edward J. Jennings; Farm Demonstrator, A. C. McLean.



MEETING OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF THE BOARDS OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS, 1928, IN BOARD MEETING ROOM OF THE COURT HOUSE.



## Department of Public Affairs

THE many and varied matters of Public Affairs are under the supervision of Director George H. Barlow and require constant attention and intelligent direction. As Director of Public Affairs, Freeholder Barlow supervises the Clerk and Auditor of the Board, the Permanent Registration Bureau, the Sealer of Weights and Measures, the Legal Department, the County Superintendent of Schools, the County Physician, the County Coroners and the Farm Bureau.

THE CLERK AND AUDITOR of the Board of Freeholders acts as a clearing house for all official and business matters pertaining to the Board. The responsibilities of the office are manifold and necessitate systematic management and an intimate knowledge of all Board business and official procedure. Walter C. Fowler has held this office for the past 10 years in efficient manner and voluntarily undertakes the authorship of the *Freeholders' Manual*, issued yearly.

GEORGE H. BARLOW,  
*Director.*

THE PERMANENT REGISTRATION BUREAU keeps permanent records of all persons registered in the County in accordance with the new act, effective January 1st, 1927.

THE SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, moving continually about through the County, tests and inspects all scales, weights and measures. Those which are incorrect are corrected or condemned and the people thereby protected against fraud.

THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, consisting of a County Counsel and a County Solicitor, advises and acts in behalf of the Board of Freeholders on all legal matters. It functions to guide and protect the Board in all contracts, law suits, pension cases, etc.

THE COUNTY PHYSICIAN performs all necessary autopsies and acts as physician for the County Jail and for the County Work House.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS is head of the County



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS—COURT HOUSE.

school system. He has supervision over the County schools, certification of all public school teachers and the administration of the schools. His are the weighty responsibilities of the educational and business administration of the entire County school system.

THE COUNTY FARM BUREAU or Agricultural Extension Service is an educational bureau for promoting better farming, better farm homelife and better living conditions for the rural residents of the County.

It is a coöperative bureau financed jointly by the United States Department of Agriculture, the State Experiment Station and the County, in accordance with the Federal and State laws.

The Bureau was established by Mercer County, November 1st, 1912, and was the second county in the State to take up the work, Essex County having started but two months before.

The personnel of the Bureau consists of a County Agricultural Agent, a County Club Agent, a County Home Demonstration Agent and an Assistant.

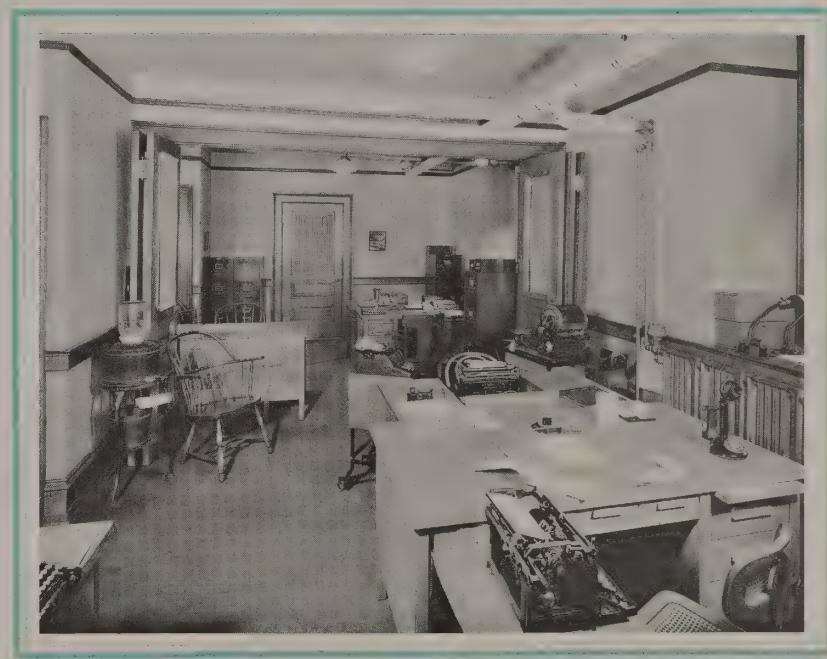
The work of the service is principally along educational lines and has had a most desirable effect in increasing and improving farm production and live stock, in modernizing and making farm homelife more attractive, in arousing an interest in agriculture among the boys and girls of the rural sections and in encouraging the "stay-on-the-farm" movement. It may be safely stated that 75 per cent. of the farm population of Mercer County is reached and benefited by this work.

THE COUNTY CORONERS are elected by the people and are three in number. They investigate and issue burial permits in all cases of sudden, suspicious or unusual death. The work carries great responsibility and calls for vigilance and experience.

The Department of Public Affairs also supervises and pays the bounties of \$3.00 on each fox killed and 50c on each woodchuck, according to the provisions of the Bounty Law.

Director Barlow, through an effective system, creditably supervises these varied activities of his department.

The Balderson-Chevrolet, Inc., supplied a car for the Agricultural Agent.



OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE—COURT HOUSE.

## Department of Road Repair



ARTHUR BRAY,  
*Director.*

**T**HREE are 839 miles of road in Mercer County, the equivalent of one continuous highway from Trenton to a point below St. Augustine, Florida. Of these 839 miles of road, 151.18 are at present under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Freeholders and are maintained under direction of the Road Repair Department, of which Freeholder Arthur Bray is Director.

Practically half of this County Road system is improved with high type modern surfaces while the balance of 77 miles is macadam road.

The important work of this department may be divided into three classes, namely, maintenance and repair of all county roads, snow removal and care of signs and signals.

**MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR** presents an extensive problem and is becoming greater and greater each year, due principally to the constantly increasing weight and size of the trucks moving over the highways.

The 74 miles of improved concrete roads need close attention. All joints and cracks must be kept sealed to prevent water from seeping under the surface. The 77 miles of macadam roads require constant patching and surface treatments of asphaltic oil or tar. All road ditches and shoulders must be kept in condition. Intensive study is given to these many problems and the work constantly supervised.

To eliminate contractors' profits, the road repair department under the efficient guidance of Director Arthur Bray and the able assistance of Supervisor Charles N. McGuire have created a permanent County road repair force. The key men of this organization are specially trained in the work, operate with the efficiency of a well oiled machine and effect a great saving for the County. During the year 1927, there were used 27,000 gallons of asphaltic oil and 52,308 gallons of tar in the road maintenance and repair work.

**SNOW REMOVAL.** During winter, the removal of snow from the more than 150 miles of County roads also presents a problem of considerable magnitude. The permanent force of men, which repairs roads in other seasons, becomes in winter a snow removal organization. Late each fall, to each of the County's 10 trucks and 4 tractors and several hired trucks is attached a removable snow plow. Each unit is outfitted with



MAIN STREET IN HIGHTSTOWN—Improved by Good Roads Co.



MAIN STREET, PENNINGTON,  
BEFORE IMPROVEMENT.

MAIN STREET, PENNINGTON,  
AFTER IMPROVEMENT  
—by Barrett Paving Co.



ROBBINSVILLE-ALLENTEWON ROAD,  
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.  
—Road oils by Theo. Tobish.



MERCER COUNTY GARAGE AND EQUIPMENT.

—Federal Trucks from McKeag Motor Sales Co.  
—Mack Trucks from Owen Henry.

shovels, tow chains, ballast and a lighting system for night work. At strategic points in each of the sections, into which the County is divided for convenience, a man and his equipped unit is assigned. Everything is prepared before the first fall of snow.

An early start and speed are imperative if snow is to be removed from the roads economically. For, if given time, snow becomes hard packed, ice encrusted and heavily drifted, making removal costs prohibitive. Therefore, a plan has been perfected whereby a signal is given the men before three inches of snow covers the ground. At the signal, each man with his equipped unit sets out simultaneously to his designated section of the County to clear the roads. Whether it be day or night they start on the signal and the work does not stop until all the roads have been cleared and the storm has ceased. During the long stretches of work a food supply truck carries coffee and sandwiches to the men. Whereas \$15,000.00 was appropriated for snow removal in 1927, the work was accomplished at an approximate cost of but \$3500, or an average of \$23.15 per mile for the year.

**ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS.** While much thought and effort are given to economies and efficiency of operation, the safety of highway pedestrians has not been neglected. All railroad and main highway crossings and points of danger are well marked with warning signs, beacon lights or automatic signals. The long railroad experience of Director Bray has been of inestimable value to the County in this respect.

One of his original ideas, that of directing pedestrians, by signs on the roads, to walk on the left side of the highway facing oncoming machines has been the means of saving many lives. It has been adopted in many parts of the United States. Directionary and route signs erected at main intersections guide through travelers on their way. The inspection and care of all these signs, lights and signals is in charge of one man, who gives his entire time to the work and has become a specialist in it.

The entire work of this department, that is the oiling, patching, tarring and repairing of roads, attention to ditches and guard rails, the removal of snow and the care of all signs and signals cost the County an average of \$1538.37 per mile of County road for the year 1927. That low figure means that all of the department's work for the year 1927 was completed for \$6429.04 less than the sum appropriated for the work and attests to the efficient methods and economic management of Director Bray and Supervisor McGuire.



WALK ON LEFT SIDE OF ROAD—SIGN AT FISK SCHOOL ON  
UPPER FERRY ROAD, EWING TOWNSHIP.



REAR VIEW OF ROTARY SNOW PLOW AND CRAWLER TYPE  
TRACTOR IN ACTION ON COUNTY ROAD.

—Furnished by Loder & Sharp, Inc., Phila., Pa.



ROTARY SNOW PLOW AT WORK—1928.

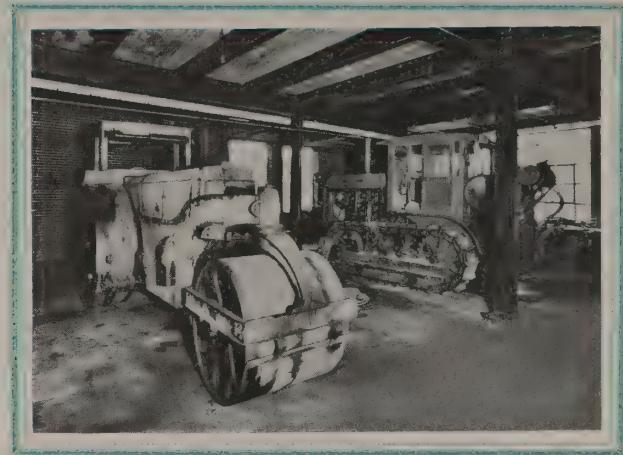
—Furnished by Loder & Sharp, Inc., Phila., Pa.

The County received \$113,000 from the State Motor Vehicle Fund in support of this department's work for 1927. Full insurance is carried for the protection of help and equipment.

Tar and patching materials were obtained from Theodore Tobish, Trenton; the Good Roads Co., Upper Darby, Pa., and the Barrett Paving Co., Trenton. Trucks, autos and equipment were purchased from the McKeag Motor Sales Co., Owen Henry, Petry Motor Sales Corp., Gomery Schwartz Motor Co., Kelley Auto Electric Service, Capitol Tire Service, Bates Tire Service and Ed. C. Niedt Motor Co., all of Trenton. The Commercial Casualty Insurance Co. and Ralph Hulse, of Trenton, wrote the insurance. Equipment and supplies were purchased from Loder & Sharp, Philadelphia, Pa.; H. T. White, Harry G. Acock and Edw. F. Grinslade, of Trenton. The Jos. Taylor Estate, Thomas Woolf and the Thos. McKeag Estate did hauling.



PENNINGTON-HARBOURTON ROAD.



SOME OF THE COUNTY'S MASSIVE ROAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT  
HOUSED IN THE COUNTY GARAGE.



END OF RIVER ROAD—ENTERING HUNTERDON COUNTY.

## Department of New Roads



WM. M. PETTIT,  
*Director.*

**I**N these modern days of constantly increasing weight of the loads, the density and the speed of traffic on the highways, it is imperative that provision be made for future needs in the construction of new roads. This applies particularly to the heavily traveled roads of Mercer County.

Freeholder Wm. M. Pettit is Director of the New Roads Department and is ably supported in the work by County Engineer Harry F. Harris.



OFFICE OF COUNTY ENGINEER—COURT HOUSE.



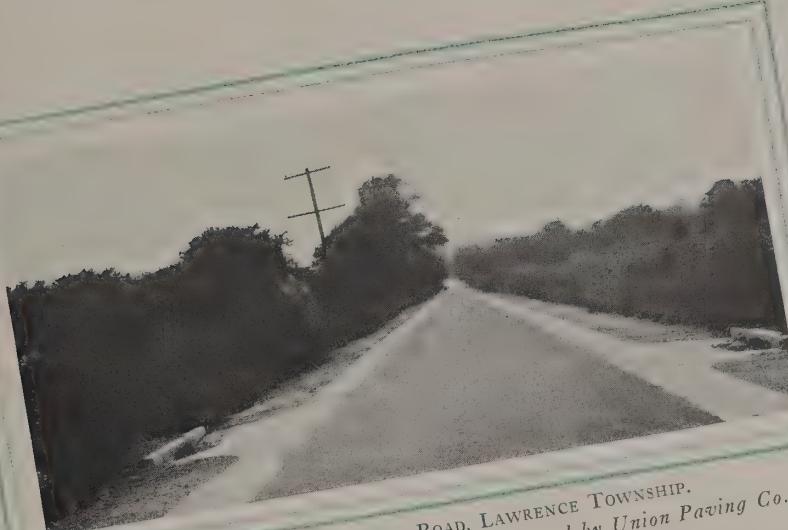
BEAUTIFUL SANHICAN DRIVE ALONG THE DELAWARE—  
SHADE TREES PRESERVED.

After most careful study, several major policies have been established in order to anticipate traffic demands of the future in the construction of new roads. The dangerous curves and angles in roads laid out in the days of the horse drawn vehicle are being eliminated as rapidly as finances permit. Drainage work, when necessary is completed in conjunction with the construction of new roads.

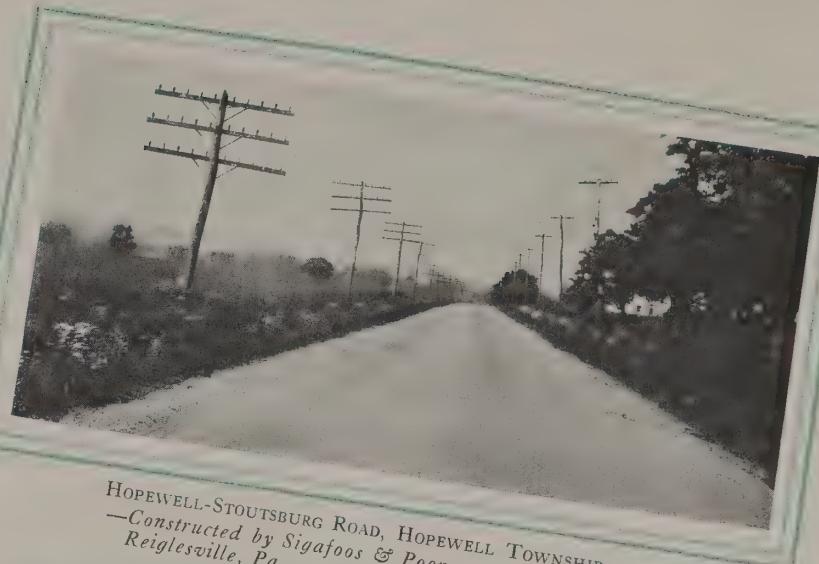
Unfavorable subsoil conditions in a large part of the County make drainage systems necessary if the full value of the investment in high type surfaces is to be obtained. Often from \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 per mile of road is expended for surface and subgrade drainage. But this expenditure is practically a permanent investment, for these drainage structures are designed to serve through the life of many road surfaces.

All primary roads are built to provide a full forty feet of cleared width, with no obstruction to the free movement of vehicles and all secondary roads not less than thirty-three feet wide.

Each road is built in the most economical manner consistent with adequate provision for anticipated traffic. As a basis for predicting the traffic to be served by a contemplated improvement, special traffic studies are made from time to time.



ROSEDALE-MT. ROSE ROAD, LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP.  
—Constructed by Union Paving Co.,  
Phila., Pa.



HOPEWELL-STOUTSBURG ROAD, HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP.  
—Constructed by Sigafoos & Poore,  
Reiglesville, Pa.



TRENTON-PENNINGTON ROAD.  
—Constructed by Michael Staub, Pitman, N. J.



AERIAL VIEW OF WASHINGTON CROSSING-PENNINGTON ROAD CUT-OFF,  
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP—SHOWING FOUR DANGEROUS CURVES  
ELIMINATED AND THE ROAD SHORTENED.  
—Constructed by Celentana & Wendland, Trenton.

Whenever practicable, the furnishing and planting of trees along the road sides is included in road construction contracts.

To help the various Townships with their road problems, important Township roads are being taken over and made part of the County Highway System as rapidly as the County is relieved of other roads by the State. In addition, aid is extended the Townships by allotting to them stone for road improvements and cash for some of their more important roads.

During 1927 the County completed 3.07 miles of high type highway at a construction cost of \$171,520.00.

Of this total, two-thirds of a mile of re-enforced concrete surface was on a new right of way which shortened the road and eliminated four dangerous curves. 1.8 miles were of dual type road and represented a new departure from the usual practice. It consisted of a 14-foot wide bituminous concrete surface, constructed on an existing and amply stable macadam road, with a three-foot widening strip on each side. A twenty-foot wide paved surface was obtained at a saving of \$10,000 per mile.

Road Engineer Edmund M. Storer assists County Engineer Harris as an expert in road construction and with him helps make Director Pettit's Department of New Roads one most economically conducted.

The major contracts for the construction of new roads were awarded to the Union Paving Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; Celentana & Wendland, Trenton; Michael Staub, Pitman, and Sigafoos & Poore, Reiglesville, Pa. The C. P. Weeden Motor Co., of Trenton, furnished an auto. Contracts this year have been awarded to the Union Paving Co. and Francis A. Canuso & Son, both of Philadelphia, Pa.



YARDVILLE-ALLENTEWON ROAD, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, SHOWING TREES  
SET OUT AND MODERN TYPE GUARD RAIL.



BEFORE.



AFTER.

HARRISON STREET, ENTERING PRINCETON, BEFORE AND AFTER IMPROVEMENT—By Union Paving Co., Phila., Pa.



F. ALEX. CRAWFORD,  
*Director.*

tion and are built the full width of the road. They have sidewalks for bridges is a progressive step, looking to future needs and lower maintenance, to meet traffic requirements and other older bridges temporarily reinforced.

Mercer County is one of the few counties in the State which has been progressive enough to engage an experienced bridge engineer. He assists County Engineer Harris and thousands of dollars have been saved to the County by this expert guidance.

During 1927, the department constructed or improved 9 bridges, 7 culverts and 3 drains in addition to its maintenance work at an approximate cost of \$171,000. The large storm water drain constructed jointly with Hamilton Township during the year, has brought needed relief to all residents of the Southwestern section of the County.

The longest bridge in the County is the one carrying Chambers Street in Trenton over the Pennsylvania Railroad and Assunpink Creek and is 606 feet long.

The Woodville-Hopewell Road Bridge over Stony Creek has the longest single truss span, being 143 feet, and the Washington Street Bridge over Carnegie Lake has the longest span of Stone Arches.

Within recent years two modern movable bridges with vertical type and electrically operated lifts have been constructed over the Delaware and Raritan Canal in Trenton.

Much credit is due Director Crawford and County Engineer Harris for their scientific and efficient management in conducting the department's affairs.

Grant & Driver, now James A. Grant, Inc., of Morrisville, Pa., and the Hill Construction Co., of Mt. Holly, completed most of the bridge contracts. Supplies and services were procured from Wilson & Stokes Lumber Co., J. B. Richardson & Son, Bayer-Peters, Robt. W. Kennedy and J. Harmar, all of Trenton.

## Department of Bridges and Culverts

THE approximately 700 bridges and culverts in Mercer County are of many designs, several being old stone arches that date back to Revolutionary days. The stone arch bridge over Stony Brook is of historic interest.

The County, traversed by the main arteries of travel between New York and Philadelphia and from points West and South is subjected to a terrifically heavy and great volume of traffic. Bridges must be constructed and maintained to carry the great loads and strain. The earlier bridges were never built to withstand such wear. It was not even anticipated.

It can be readily seen that bridge building and maintenance is a major problem in Mercer County and only by shrewd planning is the cost of this work kept within reasonable bounds by Director of the Department, F. Alex. Crawford and by County Engineer, Harry F. Harris with the assistance of Bridge Engineer, Harry A. Kerby.

An organized and permanent force of men is maintained who devote their entire time to the upkeep, painting and repair of the bridges, thus saving for the County Contractors' profits.

A system of periodic inspections rigidly adhered to, reveals needed repairs, which are given prompt attention.

Recognizing the importance and scope of the work, intensive study is given to each problem. Future traffic loadings and conditions are anticipated as far as possible. New bridges are of permanent construction, with sidewalks for pedestrians and are fully illuminated. This policy of the department in respect to new lower maintenance costs. Bridges on the more important highways have been rebuilt and strengthened to temporarily reinforce until funds permit their replacement.



CONCRETE AND STEEL BRIDGE OVER ASSUNPINK CREEK AT EDINBURG, WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP.  
—Built by Grant & Driver, now Jas. A. Grant, Inc., Morrisville, Pa.



OLDEN AVE. VIADUCT, TRENTON, OVER CANAL  
AND R. R. TRACKS, SHOWING ELECTRIC  
VERTICAL LIFT.



BRIDGE OVER MIRY'S RUN AT HUTCHINSON  
MILLS, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP.



CONCRETE ARCH BRIDGE  
OVER SANHICAN CREEK  
AT PERDICARIS AVE.,  
TRENTON.



CADWALADER PARK TUNNEL—TRENTON.



NEW BRIDGE CARRYING WASHINGTON CROSSING-PENNINGTON  
ROAD OVER JACOBS CREEK.

## Department of Revenue and Finance



WM. S. BORDEN,  
*Director*

THE exacting duties of the Director of Revenue and Finance require scrupulous attention to the following phases of the County's fiscal business: Budget making, Banking, Bond Issues, Sinking Fund, Special Legislation and Treasurer's Accounts. He has the added responsibility of signing or countersigning all payrolls, notes and checks.

Freeholder William S. Borden is Director of this Department and also is the present Director of the Board.

With the able support of Treasurer Weart, he has instituted a modern system of accounting and up to the minute business methods are pursued in the conduct of all the Department's affairs.

The condition of the County's finances is regarded as excellent. The County has borrowed only to the extent of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. of its average assessed valuation though permitted by law to borrow up to 4 per cent. This represents an extremely low percentage as compared with the other counties of New Jersey.

As a result, the bonds of the County have a high standing in the financial world and yield the County an attractive premium when offered for sale.

The County's tax rate of 41 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation in 1926 was the lowest in the State of New Jersey, Atlantic and Passaic Counties excepted. Furthermore, while

taxes everywhere have been rising higher and higher, Mercer County for the past 10 years shows an increase of only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents. The tax rate for 1927 was 48.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and 10 years ago it was 45 cents.

The value of real property in the County as assessed for 1927 is \$243,288,434.00 and the average for the last three years is \$225,497,507.00.

The statement of Director Borden shows that on December 31st, 1927,

### THE COUNTY HAD

Cash and securities (in sinking fund) . . . . .	\$618,569.84
Cash (in capital account) . . . . .	39,519.56
Cash (in current account) . . . . .	258,921.04
Accounts Receivable (Capital Account) . . . . .	76,359.48
Accounts Receivable (Current Account) . . . . .	18,843.50
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,012,213.42</b>

### THE COUNTY OWED

On Bonds issued (for roads, bridges, drainage and general improvements) . . . . .	\$4,351,450.00
On Notes and Appropriations authorized for the year . . . . .	1,739,700.68
<b>TOTAL DEBT . . . . .</b>	<b>\$6,091,150.68</b>
Less the total assets . . . . .	1,012,213.42
<b>NET DEBT . . . . .</b>	<b>\$5,078,937.26</b>

Showing the County as having a net debt of \$5,078,937.26, the equivalent of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. of the average assessed valuation and one of the lowest in the State. Robert H. Gulliver, C. P. A., of Trenton, audits the County's books.

Director Borden is also Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission which operates to control, plant, protect and improve the shade trees and shrubbery upon the public highways of Mercer County. During the years 1926 and 1927, a total of 2115 trees were set out along the road sides and 4673 in the nursery for development, being principally elm, ash and Norway maple. In 1927 about 1200 signs and posters were removed from trees and the support of many individuals and organizations gratefully received.



MUTILATED SHADE TREE RESULTING FROM  
LACK OF SUPERVISION OVER PUBLIC UTIL-  
ITY COMPANIES—Type of signs which  
Commission is removing.

## Department of Public Buildings



GEO. S. HUTCHINSON,  
*Director.*

THE maintenance, repair and upkeep of the County Court House and Annex, the Work House, County Jail and the Garage and Storehouse is the sizeable task of the Director of Public Buildings, George H. Hutchinson. The Stone Quarry and the allotments of stone to the municipalities of the County are also under his direction.

THE COUNTY COURT HOUSE, a massive and dignified edifice, at Broad and Market Streets, in Trenton, was built during the first years of the present century, from the plans of architects W. W. Slack and Son, and in it are housed the many county offices. Within the past few years the top floor and basement have been improved and converted into additional offices, thereby putting to use every available bit of space for the transaction of the County's growing activities.

THE COURT HOUSE ANNEX, a brick residence adjoining the Court House on the North, was acquired during the past year and remodelled into offices, to relieve the congestion in the Court House. The chief Janitor with his assistant and staff of workers watch and keep the Court House and Annex always clean and in fit condition.

THE COUNTY JAIL, located directly back of the Court House, is one of the most modern penal institutions in the United States. It is of brick, concrete and steel construction and large enough to hold 102 male prisoners, 16 female prisoners and 8 juveniles. It has up-to-date hospital quarters, a tubercular ward and special witness quarters and is under the direct supervision of a Chief Warden. Architects W. W. Slack and Son also designed this building.

IN THE COUNTY GARAGE AND STOREHOUSE are stored and repaired the County's road repair equipment and supplies, consisting principally of 4 tractors, 10 trucks, 19 snow plows, 6 concrete mixers, 5 road rollers, 2 scrapers, smaller implements and materials. It is in direct charge of a chief mechanic who has the responsibility of its proper operation and upkeep. Within the past year 2 more acres of ground have been added to the garage site and plans are under way for a railroad siding and mixing plant to reduce road repair costs.

The County Work House, Farm, Quarry and Shade Tree Nursery are located on a 104 acre tract of County owned land, situated about 12 miles North of Trenton on the Delaware.

THE COUNTY WORK HOUSE is a jail or detention house for short term prisoners sentenced by the County Court of Common Pleas and the police Courts of the townships and boroughs. It is modern, having complete fire



THE MARBLE ENTRANCE OF THE COURT HOUSE.  
—William W. Slack & Sons, Architects.

fighting equipment and a well and water storage system of its own. It can hold 96 male and 24 female prisoners and provides living quarters for the administrative force. The warden is acting head of the institution and practically lives with his work, thus making for effective supervision. At times during the past year it has been necessary to make the cells, built to accommodate only 96 male prisoners, hold as many as 117. This year the situation has become serious. During the first 5 months of 1928, the average number of prisoners was 119 daily. This has resulted in congestion, unsanitary conditions and lessened discipline. To relieve this undesirable situation, a new wing, designed by architects W. W. Slack & Son, is now under construction. It is being made to conform with the balance of the structure and will provide an ample number of cells. This addition is being built and equipped by Fred R. Parker, Pauly Jail Building Co., Standard Floors Co., Randolph Electric Co.

THE COUNTY FARM occupies about 75 acres of the tract and is operated under the direct supervision of an experienced head farmer. Corn, rye, wheat, potatoes, cabbages, onions, turnips and some fruit are raised and used to feed the prisoners. Excess products are sent to the County Jail. The farm has proven itself a profitable undertaking.



AIR PHOTO OF COUNTY WORK HOUSE.



AERIAL VIEW OF COUNTY OWNED AND OPERATED QUARRY.

THE QUARRY owned and operated by the County is the pride of the Board of Freeholders. Occupying about 25 acres, it is a most lucrative, revenue producing undertaking.

Begun as a small operation about 34 years ago amid a storm of protest and ridicule, today it is conducted on a large scale and as a successful and expanding business enterprise. Recognized by a law of the State, which permits the sale of excess stone at open market prices, the increasing returns from the Quarry have so greatly reduced the cost of running the County Work House, that it is reputed to have a lower operating cost than any other County Work House in the State. A chief Mechanic is responsible for efficient operation and has direct control of the work.

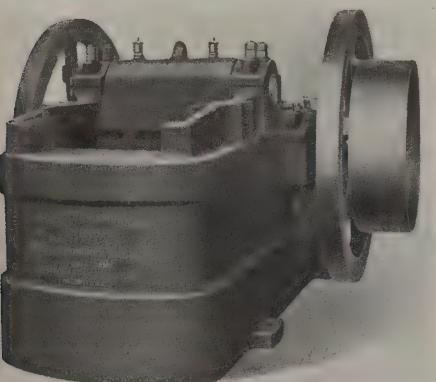
Prior to Freeholder Hutchinson's direction of this work, an average of 30,000 tons of stone were produced annually. When he became Director, a modern crusher was installed by Earle C. Bacon, Inc., of New York, and the annual tonnage increased until 1927 when a total of 60,351 tons of crushed stone were produced, valued at approxi-



MAKING A CUT IN FRONT OF THE COUNTY TRACT—SHOWING QUARRY AND CRUSHER PLANT IN BACKGROUND.  
—Equipment furnished by the *Link-Belt Co., of Philadelphia.*

mately \$110,000. The stone is used for the road needs of the County and allotments of the stone are made to the County municipalities.

The undertaking has proven so profitable that the plant is now being remodelled and a new crusher added which will increase the capacity of the quarry to about 650 tons per day and at the same time reduce the cost of producing each ton. By the end of the year, this improvement is expected to show the work house as being operated totally without cost to the County.



THE FARRELL CRUSHER.  
—Supplied by the *Earle C. Bacon Co.*

The progressive supervision of these County activities has reacted to the credit of Director Hutchinson.



THE CRUSHER PLANT.  
—Installed by *Earle C. Bacon Co., of New York City.*



ONE OF THE SMALL EXPLOSIONS.  
—Under direction of *Fred B. Johnson.*



AERIAL VIEW OF THE COUNTY'S 104 ACRE TRACT IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP ON WHICH IS LOCATED THE WORK HOUSE, QUARRY AND FARM.

Wm. W. Slack & Son, Trenton, were architects for most of the County buildings. Quarry equipment and supplies were purchased from the Link-Belt Co., Phila., Pa.; Earle C. Bacon, Inc., New York City; The Manufacturers Selling Co., Trenton; John E. Thropp's Sons, Trenton, and Fred B. Johnson, Trenton. Building contractors and sub-contractors were Fred R. Parker, Randolph Electric Co., J. D. Margerum Co. and E. H. Carpenter, each of Trenton. Foods were purchased from Muschert, Reeves & Co., Bernard Bros., Holcombe & Son, White Fish Market and Freihofer Baking Co., all of Trenton. Coal and ice were supplied by B. C. Kuser Co., Inc., Tattersall Co., and the Consumer's Ice Co., of Trenton. General supplies were obtained from Frank Perlstein & Son, Chas. W. Carll's Sons, E. F. Hooper & Co., Servusoil Co., American Oil, Louis Lavinson, Sanitary Coat, Apron and Towel Supply Co., Kahn & Sons, Warren-Balderson Co., Fineburg Auto Tires Co., Jas. B. Hunt Mfg. Co., and H. F. Long, of Trenton, and Woolsey & Cadwalader, of Pennington.

## Department of Courts and Charities



JOHN O. GRETTON,  
*Director.*

THIS Department of the County's activities embraces all matters of Courts, Asylums, Widows' Pensions, Soldiers' Burial, Hospital Investigator and the Florence Mission, under the competent direction of Freeholder John O. Gretton.

**ASYLUMS, HOSPITALS AND HOSPITAL INVESTIGATOR.** The County provides aid for residents of the County who are sick and unable to pay for medical treatment and attention. The sick pay what they can and the County provides the balance to the hospitals on a low daily rate basis. Whereas, ready help is given the needy, due caution is taken to prevent imposition and deception. An hospital investigator is continuously engaged in verifying the financial condition of applicants and their eligibility to County aid.

Each year the number of patients receiving County aid is increasing, due to the constantly growing population of the County. In the year 1927, the County aided 4302 patients for an average of 10.3 days each, the average cost per day for each patient being \$2.10. A total of \$104,600.00 was expended during the year for this work by the County.

The patients were able to contribute an average of 40 cents per day each. They are maintained in the St. Francis, Mercer, McKinley, Orthopedic, Princeton and Chambersburg general hospitals.

The blind, insane, feeble minded, epileptics, tuberculars and incorrigible are established as wards in the City, County or State institutions at the expense of the County. In this direction \$155,863.22 was expended by the County in 1927.

**WIDOWS' PENSIONS.** Widows having children and without visible means of support, after proper application and investigation are granted a pension by the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas according to the needs of each case. He has authority to grant not exceeding \$16.00 for the first child, \$14.00 for the second child and \$12.00 for each additional child per month. During 1927 relief was given to 582 children in 220 families at a total expenditure of \$57,752.00.

**STATE BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS.** At present 47 neglected children or dependent orphans are being cared for, the cost of which in 1927 was \$9258.00.



COUNTY COURT ROOM—IN THE COURT HOUSE.

**SOLDIERS' BURIAL.** No honorably discharged American soldier, sailor or marine is permitted to be given a pauper's burial. One hundred dollars is granted for burial in each such case and \$35 for headstone. The graves are decorated each year with appropriate wreaths and flags.

**THE SHERIFF**, elected by the people, is chief peace officer of Mercer County. He executes all orders of any court in so far as they affect the residents of Mercer County. He is legal custodian of all prisoners in the County Jail and as head of the Jury Commission has charge of the grand and petit jurors. In 1927 the Sheriff returned to the County treasury \$40,533.93 as fees collected.

**THE SURROGATE**, an Elective Officer, takes care of all papers and instruments required by law in the settlement of the estates of those who die. He probates wills, issues letters of administration and appoints guardians. He is authorized to declare persons legally dead when absent for the periods specified by the law. He is also clerk of the Orphans Court, Judge and clerk of the Surrogate's Court and custodian of all the records of these courts. The Surrogate turned into the County Treasury \$23,802.77 in 1927 as fees collected by his office.

**THE PROSECUTOR OF THE PLEAS** for Mercer County is a counsellor at law appointed to use all reasonable and lawful diligence for the detection, arrest, indictment and conviction of offenders against the law. He functions to protect the lives and property of the people of the County by exposing and bringing to justice all violators of the laws. To assist him in his duties an assistant prosecutor, a well organized detective force and a finger print division is maintained in connection with the office.

**THE PROBATION OFFICE** investigates the character and previous conduct of all defendants for the sole use of the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas to assist him in passing sentence. The office also supervises those on probation and collects fines and moneys as directed by the Court. In 1927 it took care of 1100 probationers and collected \$18,500 in fines, \$27,000 for support of dependents and \$4250 for restitution.

**THE COUNTY CLERK**, elected by the people, is the official recorder of all instruments affecting real estate and personal property, such as deeds, mortgages, chattel mortgages, conditional sales contracts, etc. He is also clerk of the County Courts of Oyer and Terminer, General Quarter Sessions and Special Sessions, Circuit Court, Common Pleas and Juvenile Courts and as such keeps all records of their transactions.

He performs numerous other functions, such as Naturalization of Aliens, Elections, Incorporations, etc. Of real estate and personal property instruments alone there were 22,045 recorded or filed in 1927. The efficient Elliot-Fisher recording system is in use. The receipts of the office for the year were \$66,182.96.

These many matters, in so far as they come under the supervision of Director John O. Gretton are handled with system and expedition.

Materials and services were obtained from Piper Motor Co., Pierson's Garage & Service Station, General Office Equipment Co., Richmond Tire Shop, Walter W. Prior, Kline's Sport Shop and M. Wm. Murphy, all of Trenton.

THE SOLDIERS' BURIAL GROUND.

## Acknowledgment

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COAL: B. C. Kuser Co., Inc., Tattersall Co.

DRUGS: Louis Lavinson.

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ICE: Consumers Ice Co.

INSURANCE: Commercial Casualty Insurance Co., Ralph Hulse.

JAIL BUILDERS: Pauly Jail Building Co., New York City.

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LUMBER: Woolsey & Cadwalader, Pennington; Wilson & Stokes Lumber Co., Robt. W. Kennedy Co.

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